WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A network, comprising:
a master node, wherein
        said network is comprised of a plurality of nodes,
        each of said nodes is coupled to at least one other of said nodes, said
                master node being one of said nodes, and
        said master node maintains topology information regarding a topology
                of said network.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
a backup node, wherein
        said backup node is one of said nodes, and
        said backup node maintains a redundant copy of said topology
                information.

3.   A method for centralized control of a network, comprising:
creating a database, wherein
        said database contains topology information regarding a topology of
                said network; and
storing said database on a master node of said network, wherein
        said network is comprised of a plurality of nodes, and
        each of said nodes is coupled to at least one other of said nodes, said
                master node being one of said nodes.

4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising:
retrieving backup topology information from a backup node, wherein
        said backup node is one of said nodes, and
        said backup node maintains a redundant copy of said topology
                information as said backup topology information.

1   5.   The computer system of claim 4, wherein said master node and said

2   backup node maintain synchronization of said database and said backup topology

3   information.

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